



SNOW PARKING BAN: All on-street parking is banned whenever there is more than one inch of new-fallen snow. This allows snow plows to do their jobs in the first critical hours after a snowfall.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • FEBRUARY 2019



HIGHLAND ON THE MOVE

Highland began the year with an uptick in commerce – from new downtown eateries to a big box furniture store at Highland Grove and new tenants at Porte de Leau. Council President Steve Wagner said the focus will continue to be on economic expansion, quality of life enhancements and public safety. “We want to build on the successes we’ve been having,” Wagner said. “Redevelopment and planning are our No. 1 priorities for 2019.” 🐦

REDEVELOPMENT

The scheduled move by Maria’s Bueno Cocina from the former theatre district on Kennedy to a newly renovated storefront on Highway by February’s end clears the decks for the council to take a fresh look at the highest and best use of the land that is already attracting the attention of developers. “That area is an opportunity to expand the reach of downtown with an upscale development,” Councilman Bernie Zemen said. “It’s too soon to know if there will be new retail, housing – or both.” 🐦

NEW GATEWAY

One mile north, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission is soliciting new bids for the bridge replacement over the Little Calumet because the first ones were too high. Deadline is Feb. 13. 🐦

PAVING & PARKING

Street repaving will continue with another two road miles of residential streets on the docket. The municipal lot at Kennedy and Highway is getting a facelift that includes paving and landscaping. 🐦

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Highland Main Street is planning its first downtown garden east of the Main Fire Station on Highway. The all-volunteer endeavor is looking to raise \$5,000 in donations and applying for a state matching grant. 🐦

AMENITIES

As new businesses dot the landscape, the council is focusing on long-range programs and amenities that will keep people shopping, visiting and enjoying downtown Highland. 🐦

ROBBERIES, BURGLARIES LOWEST IN 50 YEARS

First time no reported incidents on Halloween or Independence Day

It was the 1960s and Lyndon Johnson was president the last time Highland posed crime stats this low.

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said the department knew it was having a good year midway through 2018 – but wasn’t sure just how good until the final statistics were tabulated in January.

“We knew the local economy was good, more people were working and that’s typically very positive news for crime rates,” Hojnicky said. “I believe these numbers have a great deal to do with the continued focus in public safety by the Town Council.”

Councilman Dan Vassar said town leaders have invested over time to help police do their jobs more effectively.

“Our police do a great job finding programs beneficial to the community. They work with us to find funding and implement programs for the greatest possible impact,” Vassar said.

“Crime numbers at an all-time low lets us know we are headed in the right direction and that we are continuing to build a foundation for safety.” 🐦

Full crime report inside



TIME TO RENEW YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE ...

Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually. Download a business license form online at highland.in.gov. Complete the application and submit it along with the appropriate fee to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana. Make checks payable to the Town of Highland.

INFO: Call the Clerk-Treasurer's office at (219) 838-1080.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
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HIGHLAND ANIMAL LICENSE FEES TO INCREASE BEGINNING MARCH 1

It's going to cost a bit more to license Fido and Bootsie this year.

For the first time in 30 years, the Town Council is increasing the cost to license and tag pets.

Additional dollars collected as part of the new fee structure will be used to help defray the cost of the two part-timers who staff Animal Control. Animal Control wardens and Highland Police answered 482 animal calls in 2018.

Most often, Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said the simple act of licensing pets mean that – most of the time – a tagged pet can be identified and returned to their anxious owners without having to spend a single night in custody.

“Our goal is to get these animals back home ASAP,” he said. “Pet tags help us do that.”

In another effort at making animal control self-sustaining, Munster police will pay the Highland Police Department \$25 per pet per day to lodge Munster's lost animals. 🐾

LOST PET? Like Highland Indiana Animal Control on Facebook for the latest news on lost animals and our recovery efforts.

NEW ANIMAL LICENSE FEES

New animal license fees, which distinguish between spay and neutered animals and those who are not, go into effect March 1. The fees are as follows:

- Unneutered male cat or dog: \$15
- Unspayed female cat or dog: \$15
- Neutered male cat or dog: \$12
- Spayed female cat or dog: \$12
- Pet other than a cat or dog: \$12.

BEFORE MARCH 1, 2019: Licenses purchased before March 1 are \$5.

DEC. 1, 2019 - FEB. 29, 2020: Licenses purchased between Dec. 1, 2019 and Feb. 29, 2020 will decrease by \$5 to \$10 and \$7, respectively.



CALLING ALL LOCAL SCULPTORS!

Highland Main Street – in concert with the Highland Redevelopment Commission and Dyer Arts Visionaries – is looking for just the right sculpture to grace the Highway Avenue corridor just east of Kennedy Avenue for a period of one year beginning this spring.

Time is already growing short for artists to email digital images of their work, which will complement existing public artworks already placed downtown, along with a completed application to the Highland Redevelopment Department at lryskamp@highland.in.gov. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15.

A committee will review all proposals and select finalists. Residents will choose the winning sculpture through a community-wide voting process. There is no cost to apply and the selected sculptor will receive a \$500 stipend donated by Dyer Arts Visionaries. 🐾

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested sculptors are invited to submit their biography and up to three sketches or photos of their sculpture with the proposed dimensions to lryskamp@highland.in.gov.

Artists may submit multiple proposals. Art group and collaborative work is welcome. There is no theme for the sculpture. Only family friendly concepts will be considered. Preferential review will be given to Highland residents, followed by Lake County residents.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: February 15

NOTIFICATIONS: March 1

PUBLIC VOTING: March 4-10

FINAL NOTIFICATION: March 15

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov to download complete application details.

HIGHLAND POLICE PROUD TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Police Chief Pete Hojnicky is happy to report low crime again in 2018 and credits his officers for keeping Highland safe.

"Our sworn, civilian and volunteer personnel make our department shine above the rest," he said. "They are heroes, who work every day to make Highland even better."

Hojnicky and his team are already dissecting the statistics to see how the department can drive already good numbers even lower.

"It is interesting to see how crime has fluctuated throughout the past 50 years and how much less crime there is today," Hojnicky said. "In fact, since record keeping began in 1968, we have never had fewer incidents of burglaries and robberies, even though our town has grown in leaps and bounds."

Public Information Officer John Banasiak also said there were no reported incidents during Halloween and Highland's annual Independence Day Festival at Main Square.

"Highland is fortunate to have a state-of-the-art facility and equipment to help us facilitate the town's needs as well as dedicated officers who are proud to serve and protect," he said.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 45 vehicle thefts, 11 were unreturned rentals, four were acquired by fraudulent means and seven were taken by a friend or family member. However, thefts from vehicles dropped a whopping 43 percent from 173 in 2017 to 99 in 2018. More than 80 percent of those thefts were non-forced, meaning no windows or locks were broken. They include license plates, employee suspected thefts at dealerships, tires/rims from dealerships.

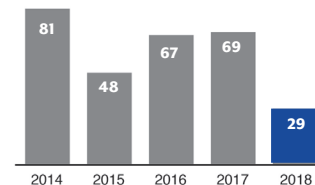


2018 CRIME STATISTICS

Robberies and burglaries were the lowest since record keeping began in 1968! Here's a look at crime over the last five years:

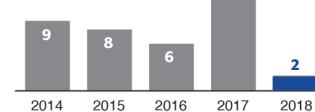
BURGLARY

HIGHEST NUMBER: 185 in 1980



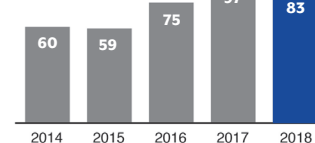
ROBBERY

HIGHEST NUMBER: 35 in 2005



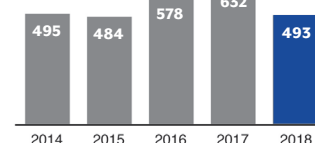
ASSAULT

HIGHEST NUMBER: 157 in 1976



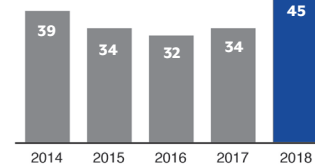
LARCENY

HIGHEST NUMBER: 1,008 in 1997



VEHICLE THEFT

HIGHEST NUMBER: 258 in 1991



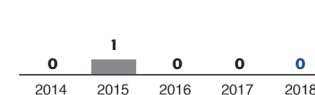
RAPE

HIGHEST NUMBER: 6 in 2005



HOMICIDE

HIGHEST NUMBER: 2 in 1986/2001



HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM ...

Help us reduce crime in our community by following just a few of these helpful hints:

LOCK vehicles and keep valuables out of sight, even when refueling or running an errand.

LOCK doors and windows on homes, garages and sheds. Keep garage doors closed. Never leave mowers, blowers, or bicycles unattended.

KNOW individuals you allow into your home.

KEEP a list of valuables.

CALL 911 to report suspicious activity.

If we follow some or all of the above listed suggestions — we can have a significant impact and help reduce crime in our community!

HOW POLICE ARE REDUCING CRIME ...

SOCIAL MEDIA

Highland police keep residents in-the-know via social media outlets.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Neighborhood patrols canvass neighborhoods June through August with overtime staff.

TACTICAL UNIT

Instead of giving would-be criminals a heads up, three plainclothes detectives work to catch unsuspecting criminals in the act.

SURVEILLANCE

The home and business surveillance registry is keeping our residents safe. Register today by emailing jkoedyker@highland.in.gov.

BABE RUTH REGISTRATION

It's time to register for Highland Babe Ruth. Divisions are open to Lake County residents.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Ages 16 to 19

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **FEB. 16, MARCH 24**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Room 109

FEE: \$200 per player

INFO: Please contact Highland Babe Ruth President Lisa Stacy at (219) 381-5331 or email hbrinfo@highlandbaberuth.com.

HIGHLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

Boys and girls can sign up for Little League T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A, Majors divisions.

LEAGUE AGES: 4 to 12

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **FEB. 16, MARCH 2**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 4 by August 31, 2019 and reside or go to school in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required.

ONLINE REGISTRATION: www.highlandll.com.

INFO: Email HLL President Kevin Boyd at info@highlandll.com.

ADULT SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL

Registration begins this month for men's and co-rec softball teams. League format will depend on number of teams in division. Top teams receive cash prizes. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Season begins April 15.

TEAM FEE: \$650 due by **MARCH 31**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CHORUS AUDITIONS

Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus invites singers aged 6-18 to audition for its spring season. NIYC rehearses Monday evenings for its annual concerts and also participates in local festivals, musical theatre and liturgical activities.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Mondays

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center, Room 108

INFO: For additional information or to schedule an audition, please call Bonnie Neff at (219) 629-5448 or email bdneff@iun.edu.

SPANISH CLASSES

¡Hola! Did you know that Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States? Students in this 10-week language class will learn conversational Spanish through common words and phrases while building grammar and reading comprehension skills. Book included.

AGES: 14 and older

WHEN: Tuesdays, **FEBRUARY 26-APRIL 30**

BEGINNERS: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$110 resident / \$120 nonresident

ONLINE ACTIVITY CODE: 349016

NOTE: Students are asked to please bring pencil, pen and notebook.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

Pop-up Smoothie & Juice Bar!

SPECIAL EVENT BROUGHT
TO YOU BY THE GREEN WITCH
AND HIGHLAND PARKS & REC

FEBRUARY 11

Join us from 10 a.m. to noon and from 5 to 7 p.m.
in the lobby concession stand at Lincoln Center!

>> FREE SAMPLES

>> PRODUCTS FOR SALE

>> DISCOUNTS



INFO: CALL HIGHLAND PARKS & RECREATION AT 219.838.0114

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade residents of Highland or students attending a Highland school are invited to participate in the Middle School Basketball League. League format will be determined by registration numbers. Everyone receives a team T-shirt. The first-place team receives champion T-shirts. Teams will be chosen through a player draft with the coaches.

WHEN: Wednesday nights, **APRIL 3 - JUNE 5**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50 resident / \$55 nonresident

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **MARCH 6**

ONLINE ACTIVITY CODE: 133002

NOTE: There will be a Mandatory Skills Assessment from 6:45 to 8 p.m. **MARCH 6** in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Highland students are invited to participate in the High School Basketball League. League format will be determined by registration numbers. Everyone receives a team T-shirt. The first place team will receive champion T-shirts. Please note: Participants will sign up as individuals and teams will be chosen through a player draft with the coaches.

WHEN: Wednesday nights, **APRIL 3 - JUNE 5**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50 resident / \$55 nonresident

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **MARCH 12**

ONLINE ACTIVITY CODE: 133003

NOTE: There will be a Mandatory Skills Assessment from 6:45 to 8 p.m. **MARCH 12** in the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114